

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
ACDA-12 OMB-01 /117 W
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O 270249Z APR 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1002
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01678

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, UNSC
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH CUBAN VICE
PRESIDENT ALMEIDA

1. SUMMARY: IN A LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH CUBAN
VICE-PRESIDENT ALMEIDA ON APRIL 26, AMBASSADOR YOUNG
REVIEWED THE STATE OF PLAY IN NAMIBIA IN DETAIL AND
SAID ANYTHING ALMEIDA COULD DO TO ENCOURAGE SWAPO
ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL COULD HELP TO PREVENT
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YEARS OF BLOODSHED. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ALARCON
DESCRIBED WALVIS BAY AS THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM.
ALMEIDA SAID THAT THE GOC HAD NOT TAKEN A DECISION TO
"PARTICIPATE" IN ERITREA. END SUMMARY.

2. AT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REQUEST, HE AND MISOFFS
MET WITH CUBAN VICE-PRESIDENT ALMEIDA, VICE FOREIGN

MINISTER ALARCON, PERMREP ROA AND A NOTE TAKER ON APRIL 26, FOLLOWING ALMEIDA'S STATEMENT ON NAMIBIA (SEPTEL).

3. YOUNG REVIEWED THE STATE OF PLAY IN NAMIBIA IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL. ALMEIDA'S AND ALARCON'S COMMENTS AND RESPONSES FOLLOW. ALMEIDA NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONTROL THE POLICE AS WELL AS THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY FORCES WHICH WOULD REMAIN IN NAMIBIA IF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED. YOUNG REPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE ARRANGEMENTS FOR UN PERSONNEL TO ACCOMPANY POLICEMEN. ALMEIDA SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT VORSTER HAD ACCEPTED THE WESTERN FIVE'S PROPOSAL BUT WITH SO MANY RESERVATIONS THAT THE ACCEPTANCE WAS MEANINGLESS. YOUNG REPLIED THAT WE HAVE NOT ACCEPTED VORSTER'S RESERVATIONS AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS PLAYING TO THE US PRESS. IF NUJOMA DOESN'T ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS, VORSTER WILL HAVE WON A VICTORY. ALMEIDA REPEATED THAT NUJOMA HADN'T SAID ANYTHING AND IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SEE HOW HE WOULD REACT. YOUNG SAID THAT ANYTHING CUBA COULD DO TO ENCOURAGE SWAPO TO ACCEPT THE WESTERN FIVE'S PROPOSALS, EVEN WITH RESERVATIONS, AND FACE UP TO GOING BACK INTO NAMIBIA TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL COMPETITION COULD HELP TO AVOID YEARS OF BLOODSHED.

4. ALARCON SAID THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM IS
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WALVIS BAY AND COUNSELLED US AGAINST CREATING A PROBLEM WHICH WILL WEIGH ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE FUTURE. IT IS A LEGITIMATE CONCERN OF SWAPO NOT TO MORTGAGE NAMIBIA'S FUTURE. ALARCON AGREED THAT WALVIS BAY IS WORTH NOTHING WITHOUT NAMIBIA BUT ALSO NOTED THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF WALVIS BAY TO NAMIBIA. TOUCHING ON A THEME FROM ALMEIDA'S STATEMENT, ALARCON SAID, THAT WHILE GUANTANAMO IS AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM WHICH MUST SOMETIME BE RESOLVED BY NEGOTIATIONS, GUANTANAMO'S IMPORTANCE TO CUBA IS NOT COMPARABLE TO THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF WALVIS BAY TO NAMIBIA. ALARCON SAID THAT, IF WALVIS BAY IS NOT IMPORTANT TO SOUTH AFRICA, WHY SHOULD SWAPO BE ASKED TO MAKE SUCH A CONCESSION.

5. ASSUMING THAT SWAPO ACCEPTS THE WESTERN FIVE'S PROPOSAL, ALARCON ASKED YOUNG HOW HE WOULD ENVISION SC CONSIDERATION DEVELOPING. YOUNG REPLIED THAT WE WOULD SHORTLY GO TO THE SC TO TRY TO WORK OUT A TIMETABLE FOR THE TRANSFER OF POWER AND REMOVAL OF S.A. TROOPS. ALARCON NOTED THAT IN VORSTER'S STATEMENT ACCEPTING THE WESTERN PROPOSAL HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT

HE EXPECTED THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD DEFEAT SWAPO.
ALARCON AGAIN ASKED WHAT OUR NEXT STEP WOULD BE IF
SWAPO ACCEPTS THE PROPOSAL. ALMEIDA AGAIN NOTED THAT
THE SITUATION STILL LEAVES US WAITING FOR SWAPO TO
DECIDE.

6. CONCERNING ANGOLA, YOUNG SAID THAT HE HAD LOOKED
INTO ALLEGATIONS OF US AID TO SAVIMBI VERY CAREFULLY
AND THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH ASSISTANCE. ALMEIDA
SAID HE DID NOT DOUBT WHAT YOUNG WAS SAYING. IN
RESPONSE TO YOUNG'S COMMENT THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01678

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

BETTER IF CONFLICT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IN ANGOLA,
ALMEIDA SAID CUBAN'S WERE NOT WARMONGERS AND WISHED
TO AVOID CONFLICT.

7. ERITREA. WHEN YOUNG RAISED THE QUESTION OF ERITREA,

ALMEIDA NOTED THAT THE GOC HAS NOT REPEAT NOT TAKEN A
DECISION TO "PARTICIPATE" IN ERITREA. YOUNG

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